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SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1909.

Mr. Taft Deals with Canal Critics.

President Taft delivers a slashing broadside at the Panama Canal critics in the May number of McClure's Magazine. His article is judicial in manner and method, and displays a mastery of the subject, due to long familiarity with the problems involved and personal acquaintance with the work of construction. Mr. Taft is a strong advocate of the lock type of canal on every ground. He has no doubt that the lock canal will be superior to the sea-level type, as well as less expensive. He shows that a sea-level canal, such as is now urged by those who are attacking the lock type, would cost, in all probability, \$700,000,000, exclusive of the original purchase price of the French rights, and of the cost of sanitation and government, whereas the lock type will cost about \$375,000,000. Mr. Taft explains the increase in the cost of the lock canal over the first estimates by saying that the actual amount of excavation was underestimated, as was also the unit cost of the work, besides which a number of changes were made in the work itself, the size of both the locks and the canal prism having been increased.

One of the allegations most frequently seen in the attacks on the sea-level type is that the board of engineers lately sent to the Isthmus by President Roosevelt was packed in favor of the lock type, so that the nature of their report, which was favorable to the lock type, was a foregone conclusion. This charge Mr. Taft declares to be "utterly unjust." He says further:

"It is quite true that two gentlemen named had expressed their opinion in favor of a lock type of canal, and had recommended the plan that was adopted, but it is also true that five of the board had not so committed themselves, and there was not the slightest reason why, if they differed from the other two, they should not express their opinion. Two of the old board were taken for the reason that they were as competent engineers as the country afforded, and knew well the grounds on which the lock type had been originally adopted. It is entirely proper, when it is claimed that a judgment should be set aside on the ground of newly discovered evidence, that at least part of the same court should sit to hear what new evidence is and pass upon its weight with reference to the previous judgment. The truth is that the judgment of this new board of engineers ought to remove all doubt as to the safety of the Gatun dam from the minds of the interested public."

Bearing on the same point is the testimony of John R. Freeman, a member of the board, who says in an article in the May Outlook that Mr. Taft's instructions to the board were to determine whether any changes were necessary in the plans of the canal, and to take all the time required to reach sound conclusions. Mr. Taft at the same time stated that if any change were found necessary, "the President and himself were both ready to face the new issue." Mr. Freeman adds that "every member of the board was convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, of the feasibility and safety" of the Gatun dam. To the weight of evidence for the safety of the Gatun dam project, Mr. Freeman adds the significant fact that the ground water level in the neighborhood of the dam is everywhere higher than the future level of Gatun Lake, thus showing that the percolation of water under the dam, of which so much is made by sea-level advocates, is a figment of the imagination. Mr. Taft goes over the familiar facts concerning the Gatun dam site, and concludes with the observation that the administration will proceed with the work of constructing the canal regardless of criticism, and that it will be completed by January 1, 1915—which breathes the true American spirit.

"Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and North Carolina are paying belated tribute to the tariff philosophy of the late Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock," says the New York Tribune. Perhaps, yet pretty much everybody down there voted for Hancock for President.

A Noisy Silence.

The citizens of Norfolk, Va., are entertaining a grievance against Rear Admiral E. D. Taussig, United States navy, the commandant of the navy yard at that place, on account of an order he issued some weeks ago discontinuing what was known as the "9 o'clock gun" at the navy yard. The gun for many years has been fired at 9 o'clock at night, and Admiral Taussig decided that it was a useless function, if not a veritable nuisance, especially in these days of personal clocks and watches, to say nothing of the public facilities for ascertaining the exact hour. Perhaps most of the people who live in Norfolk have given no thought to the usefulness of this nocturnal reverberation, and did not discover to what an extent it affected their happiness, or in what degree it constituted a necessity. The citizens have been writing to the Norfolk newspapers in protest against Admiral Taussig's exercise of authority, and one correspondent who lives at Lambert's Point, Va., says the 9 o'clock gun has been used by workmen to set the household clocks, and that "the housewife and servants depend on that gun." The expressions which the incident has provoked are becoming acrimonious, and it is made to appear that

the discontinuance of the gun has assumed all the characteristics of an outrage upon that community.

Perhaps there is an exaggeration of the practical value of the gun which is fired at a particular hour in these days when there are so many methods of ascertaining the time day or night. But certainly if the sentiment of the community in the neighborhood of the Norfolk navy yard is dead set upon having a gun fired at 9 o'clock every night, and the discharge of that piece of ordnance is not a great disturbance of the naval officers and their families, who reside within the precincts of the navy yard, Rear Admiral Taussig might easily, without any great loss of dignity to his office, revoke the order which is causing so much discussion. Of course, the longer he postpones the restoration of the 9 o'clock gun the more pressure will be exerted to accomplish what is desired. The fact that the guns of the Norfolk navy yard are fired upon the appearance there of every high ranking naval officer disposes of the claim that the poor little 9 o'clock concussion is a disturbance of the peace. There is nothing more archaic among all the traditions of the army and navy than the official salute when the chief of a naval bureau or an Assistant Secretary drops in on the commandant of a navy yard. The salute is more or less impressive upon public occasions, but the casual visit of the bureau chief at a navy yard furnishes no special reason why there should be this perfectly meaningless racket. Rear Admiral Taussig appears to have made a mistake when he silenced the 9 o'clock gun on the ground that it was a nuisance.

"Bryan is still in a receptive mood," says the Atlanta Journal, having the Democratic nomination for the Presidency next time in view. Which shows, we fear, that Mr. Bryan is not also in a receptive mood.

Intolerance Rampant.

The effort to have the widow of Senator Carmack appointed postmistress at Columbia, Tenn., in order that she and her son may have ample means wherewith to live comfortably, is one that has commended itself heartily to The Washington Herald. We hope it will be successful. It seems to us that it surely deserves to be.

It is to be regretted deeply, nevertheless, that the movement might not have been permitted to progress without the unnecessary injection of any element of the venomous bitterness incident to the Senator's lamentable and violent death. Two or three Tennessee papers are loudly calling on Mrs. Carmack, and they claim, with success, not to accept the office if any petition in her behalf bears the name of Gov. Malcolm R. Patterson, or if it is shown that he had anything whatever, directly or indirectly, to do with the appointment, in the event that it shall be made; all this growing out of a rumor that one of the present Senators from Tennessee had reported to the President that Gov. Patterson had said "the appointment would be most gratifying."

Nothing, to our way of thinking, could have been more natural than for the governor to give out just that statement. Whatever the political differences between himself and the late Senator may have been, we think the truth in the white face of the dead might operate to protect the governor from assaults of this kind, if nothing else could. For him to have led in this movement would have been a mistake, bad taste, or whatever you care to call it, but that he should have let it be known, quietly and unostentatiously, that he would consider such an act proper and to be commended is very much and entirely to his credit. Instead of censuring the governor for it, we honor him.

And it would be well for Mrs. Carmack to consider, we imagine, in thinking upon this matter, whether those newspapers so vociferously urging a certain course of conduct on her in certain contingencies, real or imaginary, are actuated primarily by a real, honest desire to help her in her distress, or by a desire to keep alive the political hatred and strife incident to her husband's sad and altogether deplorable taking away. Are the blood-stained garments of Carmack being waved in this matter for a pure, commendable purpose, or are they being waved for a sinister reason, and with ulterior motives? Suppose, through a mistaken or vicious agitation against Gov. Patterson—a far-fetched agitation, at worst—Mrs. Carmack should be induced to reject this probable offer and the two or three thousand dollar salary it carries; would these fierce and rampant "friends" get busy and find her something else as good, or even approximately as good? We doubt it, and with a doubt that is tall, large, and well developed. No; she would be editorially commended in glowing and even impassioned words—and left to make a living for herself and her boy by taking in sewing, perhaps.

We should be gratified more than we can say to see the widow provided for as it is being sought to provide for her. But it can be done without appeals to idiotic intolerance, and without nasty and utterly unjustifiable attacks on Gov. Patterson, even though he was of a political line-up stanchly antagonistic to her husband's.

Hollow Tariff Professions.

"Where did we ever make a statement that we would revise the tariff downward?" asked Senator Aldrich, the other day. Nowhere, of course, if he was referring to the official pronouncements of the Republican party, for the national platform, though it mentions excessive duties, has not a word of promise concerning their reduction. The revision-downward idea must be traced to other sources than the Republican platform, and the New York Tribune undertakes to run it down:

"It was in response to a genuine popular demand that the tariff be lowered to fit new conditions that the Republican party passed a year ago to revise the Dingley law. That promise was accepted at its face value by the voters."

Unfortunately, the genuine popular demand was expressed only in the election of President, and not in the choice of Representatives in Congress. Mr. Taft was in favor of a genuine revision of the tariff, and is still believed to be, but a different situation prevails in Congress, at least when the views of the mass, as distinguished from those of individuals, are considered. There are few members

of either House, Republican or Democratic, who are not favorable to some protective duty or other. Many of them are demanding the retention of the Dingley duties where proposals have been made to lower them, others are clamoring for still higher rates. A tariff reformer as to one set of rates is a red-hot protectionist as to another set—revision downward applies only to the products of some other section.

This state of opinion colors with insincerity the professions of those who are most vehement in demanding such a revision as would affect excessive duties. It is assumed that the Middle West is for a downward revision, but the members from that section expressly except from such a revision certain agricultural products. So, too, the Southern members would revise the schedules affecting other sections, but as to dutiable rates protecting their own industries, they are as keen as any Pennsylvania tariff beneficiary. New England wants free raw materials, but will not hear of any concessions to the ultimate consumer on manufactured products, with the single exception of shoes. This is the plaint of Senator Dooliver, who, with an eye to the retention of the duty on hides, waxes critical over the duties on cotton manufactures. Likewise Senator Nelson, an ardent tariff reformer, is intent upon the protection of the flax farmers of Minnesota. How are these men to justify their cry for revision downward if they refuse to sacrifice anybody but their wife's relations?

Now, Senator Aldrich finds precisely his opportunity in the conditions existing in Senate and House. He will proceed along the line of least resistance, which is that of conceding all the protection that anybody can reasonably ask, and log-rolling the whole thing through. How much support could he get for a downward revision that meant anything? Everybody, practically, is for protection on something; nobody is for revision of all the schedules. In fact, the whole membership of Congress is so infected with the desire to get something out of the tariff that the idea of a general revision that will reduce the amount of protection has been pretty well lost sight of. If this situation is misrepresentative of public opinion, it is certain there will be lively times in the next Congressional elections.

"One way to make your wife's biscuits taste like mother's did is to buy a buck-saw and saw wood an hour before supper," says the Herald and Presbyter. Provided you do not think of the difference between the amount you pay for the saw, the wood, and the supper, and the price father paid for them. That might spoil your appetite.

Switzerland doubtless will live to curse the day airplanes were invented, if it is to be forced into maintaining a navy thereby.

The Montgomery Advertiser says it would rather discuss a split bottle of beer than a split infinitive. Prefers a spirited discussion, as it were.

A Texas farmer stored \$300 in currency in his barn, and a fire wiped it out. Still, we have no doubt, the Houston Post will console him by reminding him that it was a particularly majestic and grand old fire.

Luther Burbank has perfected a cactus that produces alcohol and sugar. Now, he will strike a number of people as being something in the wizard line worth while.

Although Mr. Roosevelt's first camp was pitched "near the railroad station," roaring lions prowled about it all night long. "O muck! O punk! O piff!"

No, indeed; you must not call the prevailing fashionable shade in women's gowns "old rose." It is "petunia." Just dear, is it not?

April and the weather man both guessed right finally.

"Suppose we should break the solid South and all join the Republican party. What would happen then?" inquires the Rome (Ga.) Tribune-Herald. Why, a pie famine would happen then, we fancy.

Even \$10,000,000 would not be too much to pay for the establishment of a sort of telegraph service between this earth and Mars, however, when you think of some of the questions that might be settled thereby. "How old is Ann?" "What is a Democrat?" "What is whiskey?" and so on, for examples.

Of course, you will hardly think it possible that there may be a joker in that skeleton idea in the tariff bill, but you never can tell. Presumably every skeleton has a funnybone or two somewhere about it.

Abdul is not only sick, but Abdul's saint would be.

Some new \$1,000 bills are to be decorated with Alexander Hamilton's picture. There probably never will be a hysterical demand from the common people, however, to know what Alexander looked like.

And now the Sultan of Morocco is facing trouble. This seems to be the busy season with all of the sultans throughout the world.

Cipriano Castro is saying some mighty mean things about "Uncle Sam" nowadays. But Castro never did love the old man, anyway.

Sam W. Small's "The Golden West Magazine" is out, and it is an extremely creditable periodical from every point of view. It is published in Waterloo, Iowa, and while it concerns itself primarily with its own immediate section, it is largely national in scope, nevertheless. Mr. Small is one of the most versatile as well as one of the best informed men in this country, and his work is not only clean cut, but invariably brilliant. The new venture ought to be, and doubtless will be, a success.

"Lodge and Crane keep eyes on schedules affecting Massachusetts." "Elkins and Scott for West Virginia." The foregoing are two headlines from the Baltimore News of Friday. Every fellow for himself, and the devil take the hindmost!

Mr. Roosevelt is at last in the Dark Continent. Fellow-paraphraser, let us resolve to keep it as dark as we can.

A Philadelphia surgeon has sewed up a patient's lacerated heart, and the patient will recover. Heart lacerations sustained in the spring, however, are not so hard to cure, as a rule.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

TIMELY ADVICE.

It has attractions, has the stage. But will it always be the rage? The present public does not know. The actresses of long ago.

The footlight glamour fades, we warn; But one may always sew and darn. Come, the sweet domestic dock, And quit the buskin for the sock.

In the Fashionable World.

"What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable body?" "Nothing. They merely pass each other with a haughty stare."

A Hopeless Case.

"Ever think of marrying, old man?" "Yes," admitted the chronic bachelor, "with a shudder."

Can You Blame Them?

"Why do parrots swear so?" "Possibly on account of the conversation they have to endure."

"What do you mean?" "Everybody asks 'em to have a cracker."

More Profitable.

A poet likes, when day is done, To contemplate the setting sun. It's different with farmer men; They'd rather see a setting hen.

A Receptive Candidate.

"How would you like to have greatness thrust upon you?" "Well, I wouldn't dodge."

It Had to Happen.

"Serious trouble in the Balkans at last." "How now?"

"One paper has sent a lady correspondent 'to the theater of war.'"

"She refuses to take off her hat."

Is This True?

"Can a man be happy with money?" "He can after his acquaintances get over the idea that they can get it away from him."

Easy Publicity.

"What do you think of an actress going in for darning socks?" "Seems to be a good way to get press notices."

CORNERS IN NECESSITIES.

Ways of Reaching Grain Monopolies Through State Laws.

From the New York World.

With wheat and flour soaring in price, with hoards of bread diminishing in size, and with an increasing public demand upon the President and Congress for action, the man responsible for the present situation in breadstuffs vehemently denies that he has cornered the market. He is merely a merchant. He foresees scarcity. He did not foresee it. He simply bought wheat when he knew it was cheap, and he now has it for sale at a profit.

So say they all. Few of the daring operators who have attempted with more or less success to monopolize markets have been willing to admit that they contemplated a corner, and the one now in evidence is not likely to do so. There are laws in Illinois against forestalling and against corners. There is a law also, which has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State, but rarely enforced, prohibiting dealing in futures.

Gamblers in wheat are shrewd enough to point to the high price of cash wheat—that is, real wheat—as proof that their speculation is not responsible for the advance in futures, but if it had not been for the manipulation of futures there would be no such demand now for the actual grain. These operators probably have bought and sold many times over all the real wheat that there is in the country. By such methods they have gained control of a great proportion of the visible supply.

It is not so easy to see how the national government can reach those evil-doers, but States which permit manipulators to monopolize food and fish unearned millions from the pockets of the people are shockingly remiss in their duty to themselves and their neighbors.

IRON ORE QUESTION.

Antagonism of Eastern and Western Steel Interests.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The duty on iron ore affords a very striking example of the difference with which any item of the tariff is viewed in different localities. Economic questions are everywhere less dependent on political theory than upon geography. The commanding position of the Pittsburgh steel interests is largely due to the control of the exhaustless supplies of ore in the Lake Superior region and the economy of the furnaces. Eastern establishments, which must transport their ore a long distance by rail across the mountains, are thus at a serious disadvantage, so far as they are dependent upon native ores.

There are great supplies of rich ores in the West Indies accessible by water that might be brought cheaply to our Eastern mills, thus counterbalancing the economies of lake transportation. But the tariff puts a prohibitive penalty on their use. The tariff on iron ore of Pennsylvania is directly opposed, in this instance, to that of Western Pennsylvania. The tariff on ores "protects" the valley of the Ohio at the expense of the valley of the Delaware, which has the natural barrier of the Alleghenies upon one side and the artificial barrier of the custom house upon the other.

It is no mere dream in which Mr. Schwab sees a great development of the industry in the East in competition with the United States Steel Corporation if the Cuban ores can be brought within reach to supplement the native deposits. Eastern steel men have long recognized the essential importance of this. They have seen the great center of steel production transferred to the West by considerations perfectly natural and legitimate in themselves, but aided by the artificial operation of a duty no longer needed for the protection of an interest. But there has been such modification in English and American jurisprudence. The rule borrowed from the Roman law, that the individual has an unlimited right to the air above his property, still obtains.

Virginia's Prohibition Issue.

From the Norfolk Landmark.

Anyhow, it looks to us as if Virginia has now a better chance of escaping the affliction of State-wide prohibition (which would be wide-open prohibition in many localities) than she seemed to have a few months ago. As the tests proceed in other States, including our next neighbor, North Carolina, the blind-tiger demonstration will give the Virginians the same sincere prohibitionists who would not be for prohibition if they were convinced that it would not prohibit. Virginia is almost dry now, geographically, and with the maintenance of the "status quo" will soon become as dry as it is possible to make it. Prohibition by State-wide enactment would undo much that has been done in the direction of real reform.

Practice Makes Perfect.

From the Chicago Tribune.

With a little practice you may become accustomed to seeing a smaller 8-cent loaf of bread than the one you are used to, with a little self-denial you may succeed in making it go just as far.

—Edward Burnett, in Golden West.

CHICAGO'S PLAYGROUNDS.

What One City Is Doing for All the Children.

By Allen Miller, in St. Nicholas.

Scattered here and there are what Chicago calls play parks, seventeen in number, each covering from ten to thirty acres, with its field recreation house, outdoor and indoor gymnastics for both girls and boys; grounds reserved for small children; also tennis courts, baseball diamonds, skating ponds, and toboggan slides. The swimming and plunge baths include ten that are each from 60 to 100 feet in length and of proportional width, besides the waters of Lake Michigan. In these places are 50,000 bathing suits, free to all who come, and countless dressing rooms and lockers.

How have the people appreciated it? Let the figures of attendance tell the story: In one year 371,000 visits were made to the indoor gymnastics; there were 2,230,000 recorded visitors to outdoor recreation—no less than 734,000 in a single month—while there were 1,600,000 admissions to the swimming and shower baths.

The motto of the play-park promoters is "all or none." If you are going to provide such a center have it big enough so that all can amuse themselves at the same time—even the toddlers, who will kick around all day in the sand pile and never whimper. Of course, mother and grandmother are not going to play basketball, or any such strenuous games, but they can "play" in talking with each other, in meeting in the recreation houses, where they bring their sewing and crocheting, while looking after the babies. They can "play" amid the books and magazines provided for them. They can "play" while listening to the lectures and concerts, too. That's the ideal—"something for every one." Even in faraway Los Angeles, the city has gone down into the public purse and has provided play parks—but the city thinks it is worth while. The people have these places right at their own doors, too, as they are distributed throughout the city, and are more numerous in the thickly settled districts.

A recreation house is a feature of this plan. Appropriate in design, it was erected merely for its purpose, which is public, indoor recreation. It contains a hall, where concerts, exhibitions, and other entertainments are given, for the people themselves; also clubrooms for both men and women, a neighborhood library, a restaurant where simple food is sold at cost, baths, and other conveniences. Everything is free, except the meal service. The only thing that the bill is for is the space for gardens, fifty or more of the little folk may amuse themselves raising flowers and vegetables for the coveted prizes. In other spots are the open-air gymnasium, room for baseball, football, and other sports. At the end of the hour the ground is reserved for the children of the public schools near by, when one may see a thousand boys and girls sporting themselves, and all in a space of 300 feet square. This and the other grounds have had their rates open less than five years, but in that time they have changed from a social experiment to a public necessity.

MORE TARIFF, NOT LESS.

The "Astounding Impudence" of the Aldrich Procedure.

From the New York Times.

Senator Aldrich is frank, very frank. He is frank in his disclosures of the present purpose of his party to maintain, even to increase, the Dingley rates, disregarding altogether the demand of the people for a decrease of the tariff burden, and throwing to the winds the "true principle of protection" declared in the Republican platform that the duties imposed should be such "as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries." Mr. Aldrich is most commendably frank, too, we may even say he is stern, in his rebuke to Congress for its reckless extravagance. He insists that the scale of expenditure recently adopted is wasteful and unnecessary, and he declares that in the fiscal year 1911 there must be a reduction of \$5,000,000 in disbursements. If this is done, the provisions of the Aldrich bill will, in his judgment, enable the treasury to make both ends meet.

Senator Aldrich submits to the Senate estimates prepared with the assistance of treasury experts, and he gains the calm language of the Rhode Island Senator affords no evidence that he is conscious of the degree to which his admission disparages the expectation of the people and falsifies the promises of his party. We were to have the tariff revised because the burdens it imposes are too severe longer to be borne, and because we have outgrown the necessity for the protection which many of its schedules provide. Instead of that, Mr. Aldrich and his committee submit a bill that actually increases the Dingley extortions! The impudence of the procedure is astounding, but we do not see what the people are going to do about it; we do not see even how they can do about it. Mr. Bryan has reduced the Democratic party, or what was once the Democratic party, to a condition that makes it possible for the Republicans to do with entire impunity what the standpaters believe, or what the protected interests demand.

Ownership of the Air.

From the New York Globe.

The arrest of the German aeronauts on French soil again indirectly raises the question of jurisdiction of the air. But no doubt it will be raised many times before it is settled, for its complications are many and difficult. It will involve the settlement of rights between the individuals, rights between States, the question of "floating territory" known to maritime law, and various similar matters. The modern rule in conflict of States to-day seriously modifies the individual's rights to the air above his land. The owner may not as a rule object to an trespass so far above the surface of his land that it will do him no material injury. But there has been such modification in English and American jurisprudence. The rule borrowed from the Roman law, that the individual has an unlimited right to the air above his property, still obtains.

Raise More Cereals.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

There is no longer any danger of over-production of breadstuffs and meat and dairy products in this country. Extension of the area of cultivation approaches the limit more and more, and it does not keep pace with the increase of population. The demands of the domestic market for consumption advance out of proportion to production and the surplus for export is relatively diminishing, while the world's requirements increase. The exports of farm products is still our mainstay for paying for imported merchandise, and will continue to be so while the cost of manufacturing is artificially kept up, for exports necessarily come into competition with foreign products of the same kind. We not only need to extend the area of land cultivated for the staple crops, but to improve methods of cultivation and reduce cost of production so far as possible.

Fashion-made Women.

From the New York Mail.

Nothing in the appearance of the woman dressed in the height of fashion suggests that it is ever the function of her sex to bear or nurture children. The predilection for powder which one sees, even in the afternoon parade along Fifth avenue, is still another denial of the bloom and vitality of nature. Monstrous hatted, puffed, and square-jawed, hipless and lank limbed, these women of the mode pass along the street like the figures on an Egyptian bas relief, like an art nouveau frieze, like a Puvion de Chavannes fresco animated into a languid semblance of life.

Ancestors as Assets.

From the New York Mail.

The best that can be said about the American passion for ancestors is that it provides a living for a number of professional genealogists, and that it is, in itself, comparatively harmless. Every one is perhaps entitled to some little form of vanity and self-indulgence. Ancestry is no more than a game, and the search for their unites families, a common interest, where such vanities as drinking and gambling tend to separate them.

Woman's Way.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

When a woman tools a coach it has to be along the Arrow road, where she may run across the little archer.

OPPORTUNITY LOST.

Democrats Throwing Away an Ancient Party Principle.

From the Wall Street Journal.

There was one principle which the Democratic party enjoyed, whether Bryanite or not, and that was tariff for revenue only.

This was a sound, consistent argument, capable of strong support, embodying a principle accepted by some of the strongest economists and practiced by our greatest trade rival. Right or wrong, it was something worth fighting for. It was the thread of consistency that held the heterogeneous party together. It was a thing to make sacrifices for and, given three years of dull times with a high tariff, it was something to win the Presidential election with in spite of the handicap of William Jennings Bryan.

Mr. Bryan has been the most valuable asset of the Republican party for twelve years. He made a Democratic victory impossible, consistent in its consistency, that part of the Democratic party which dislikes and distrusts him has now made the Republican party a present of its strongest principle. The Democratic Senators cannot deny the consistency of their exhibition in the Lower House, they openly concede the principle of protection. Any legislator who demands the protection of a single industry concedes the principle of protection for all industries. He cannot oblige the protected manufacturer in his own district without reciprocally obliging the protected manufacturers in all the other districts. He is, therefore, a protectionist in his most extreme form. He is a protectionist in his district, and it is quite conceivable that his political opponents are protectionists on principle. It has been shown by analysis of the votes in the House of Representatives that 1/2 out of 1/3 Democrats voted to protect the privilege of protection. It is to be feared that this would surrender of principle to campaign contributions has sounded the death-knell of the Democratic party. There is something historically consistent in that party's fatuity. It is the only consistency which probably have assured a Democratic victory at the next Congressional election. That heaven-sent opportunity is thrown away, like every other opportunity since 1896.

BRITISH COURT UNIFORMS.

From London Telegraph.

Much of the splendor of any of his majesty's courts would be lacking if it were not for the dazzling uniforms of the high officers of state and the great officers of the royal household who assemble at these impressive functions. There are always five or six different grades of gentlemen in attendance present when his majesty holds a court, and each has its distinctive dress, the difference usually being indicated by the trimming, either gold or silver, or the number of buttons worn. The complete outfit of a first-class court official runs up to £200, the jacket alone costing £90 to £100. It is made of the finest royal blue cloth, lavishly embroidered with gold lace of a highly elaborate design. The waistcoat and knee breeches are made of white kerseymeres silk, richly embroidered, set off with buttons and buckles of gilt, and white silk stockings, sword, cocked hat, and white kid gloves make a complete costume, as rich as it is dignified.

The dress of the ambassador or diplomat wears a special distinction—black velvet collar with a gold embroidered floral design. The uniform coats the wearers about £11. Lord lieutenants are dressed in a coat of royal red cloth, swallow-tail and adorned with silver buttons, and the collar embroidered with silver lace. Silver-laced trousers are worn, with a cocked hat without plumes. The uniform is very handsome and costs the wearer £100 guineas, including the brooches to wear it, let alone the making of it.